



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

## MINUTES OF THE 671<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 671<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on March 16, 2006, in Room 140 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Walter Coombs  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Clifton Albright, Vice Chair  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

Bertrum M. CeDillos  
*Chair*

Clifton W. Albright  
*Vice Chair*

Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Walter P. Coombs  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

#### **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Heather Aubry, LA City Attorney's Office  
Lieutenant George Bush, Los Angeles Police Department  
Michael Karsch, City of Los Angeles  
Devallis Rutledge, Office of the District Attorney  
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Bea Dieringer, LA County District Attorney's Office  
Honorable John H. Sandoz, Superior Court  
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court  
Dr. Margaret Little, Superior Court

#### **STAFF**

Jim Corbett  
Dedie Ward

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair CeDillos called the 671<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:39 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair CeDillos lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2006**

Approval was postponed due to a lack of quorum.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – COMMISSIONER WALTER P. COOMBS - UPDATE ON THE CONSERVATOR MISMANAGEMENT AND ABUSE TASK FORCE REPORT**

Commissioner Coombs was absent due to illness. Staff member Jim Corbett distributed copies of the report, and gave an overview:

- Last year, the Board of Supervisors established a task force to investigate the operation of the Public Guardian Program after the Los Angeles Times printed a series of articles criticizing the agency. Following review of the abuse cases cited in the newspaper articles, the Task Force provided a more extensive explanation of each case in their report, and included critical information omitted in the initial articles. The findings were presented to the Board in February, 2006.
- In the report, the task force made several recommendations which included: 1) more collaboration and training among County Departments; 2) public education and outreach; 3) legislative reform; and 4) increased future funding to compensate for the anticipated growth in California's elderly population. The funding source has yet to be identified, but the Board has allotted an additional \$1.2 million for the Public Guardian Program, enabling them to add sixteen new positions.
- In 2006, a private guardian or conservator will need to meet certain educational and experience requirements as mandated by the Judicial Council.

Councilman Zine commented that he feels as the elderly population of the County grows, conservatorship will become a huge industry, therefore he recommended a local resolution be developed to evaluate conservators, and regulate their licensing and certification to avoid protracted processing on the state level.

Commissioner Millard added that he agrees there is a need for some type of regulation, simply to prevent future conservators from abusing their clients.

Chair CeDillos suggested staff prepare a rough draft of a resolution encouraging the Board of Supervisors to recommend the legislature regulate licensing of conservators.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

#### **Child Custody Exchange – Bea Dieringer, District Attorney's Office and Peggy Shuttleworth, CCJCC**

Bea Dieringer reported that:

- The committee received an extension to submit a grant, and did so March 15th. Rather than request funds for one year, the committee requested a two year grant for a total \$345,542.00. The committee should receive notification sometime in October of 2006 as to whether they will be awarded the grant.
- As part of the grant, the committee will expand its subcommittee to include representatives from the Domestic Violence Council, Probation Department, DCFS, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency.
- Ten weeks ago, the committee had eight participating families conducting exchanges in Temple City and seven in Carson.
- A Spanish version of the child custody exchange brochure is being drafted and should be finalized for distribution soon.
- The Child Custody Exchange program needs a means of reporting non-cooperative parents to the Courts. It was suggested this matter be addressed with Linda Louie and Dr. Little to consider how best to resolve the issue.
- To date, the Committee has distributed brochures to over 140 agencies that provide refuge from domestic violence, and similar services.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Judge John Sandoz announced that he would be retiring in May this year. The judge then introduced Commissioner James Endman from the Superior Court, who will be replacing him as the Court's representative.

Chair CeDillos announced that the Commission has nearly completed addressing topics on the Roundtable Discussion List.

#### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

Councilman Zine announced that he has been appointed to chair the National League of Cities Immigration Task Force. The Task Force has been assigned to address the issue of HB4437 which if passed, could cause non-citizens living and working in the U.S. to be taken into custody and charged with a high-grade felony. The bill also targets employers and others who "assist" undocumented individuals residing in the U.S.

The Task Force is working to draft a compromise plan that would offer a more rational and compassionate alternative for undocumented workers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.